

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

Claims 24–26, 32, 37, and 45–48 were previously pending and under consideration.

Claim 25 is cancelled herein.

Claims 24, 26, 32, 45, 46, and 48 are now pending and stand rejected.

Claims 24 and 48 are amended herein.

No new matter has been added.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103

Claims 24, 26, 32, 45, and 46 are rejected as obvious over Ron (US Patent 5,647,834) in view of Grunwald, (US PAP 2002/0173721). Claim 48 is rejected as anticipated by Rosking. The rejections are traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 24

Claim 24 previously recited detecting user anxiety and in response simplifying Claim 24 now recites an adaptive computing environment (ACE) engine. The ACE engine is a separate application that receives sensor data and data from input devices. The ACE engine continually monitors data from the sensors and input devices, thereby allowing it to detect user behavior while the user interacts with various arbitrary applications; the ACE engine operates in parallel with and in support of applications. It is the ACE engine that detects anxiety of the user and simplifies the plurality of features in response.

Ron has no teaching of an ACE engine that works in parallel with other applications, monitoring sensors and user input devices. In contrast, Ron teaches a monolithic application for sensing biosignals and providing audio/visual feedback. Claim 24 recites a system in which

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anxiety of a computer user, regardless of the application used, can be detected, and appropriate adjustment made, without interrupting the user and without regard for which application is being used. Ron does not continually monitor sensors and input devices, but rather performs monitoring only when a particular application is executing. Ron is incapable of the system-wide monitoring/adaptation recited in claim 24.

Grunwald also teaches only a monolithic application, which is used for operating an ultrasound device. Grunwald has no mention of the features recited in claim 24 that are mentioned above. Grunwald has no bearing on ACE-engine type of software.

Claim 24 also recites that the simplifying involves removing, from one of the *arbitrary* applications, advanced configuration options. Ron has no mention of such a feature. Grunwald, at best, discusses removing a user interface element from view. However, removing a user interface element from view is not the same as disabling an advanced configuration option that is *settable* by the user. The cited parts of Grunwald describe changing between user interface modes, where one mode may have fewer controls displayed. However, one of ordinary skill in the art of computer programming will appreciate that merely not-displaying a control does not imply that the functions invoked by that control are disabled (for example, a minimized window is only hidden but remains fully operational). In fact, paragraph 0022 of Grunwald explicitly states that the embodiment is intended only to minimize user interaction for *achieving predefined goals*. The goals achieved, and presumably the program functionality for same (whether configuration settings or otherwise), are not disabled, but are instead made easier to use. Grunwald has no mention of actually disabling advanced configuration options. It should be noted that claim 24 recites that the configuration options are of a type that affect behavior of the application, and the removing same causes the user to not be able to configure the options. Grunwald has no mention of causing a configuration option to go from a settable

state to an unsettable state.

Finally, the rejection is traversed because the cited references are non-analogous art. Ron relates to monitoring biosignals and providing feedback to help a user learn to control emotional state. Grunwald relates to ultrasound devices and software for operating same. The user interface simplification of Grunwald would have no benefit in Ron, which has no description of a graphical user interface. There is nothing in Ron which suggests a complex user interface that would benefit from simplification.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 48

Claim 48 recites monitoring an environmental state of the computer as well as user input as the user uses plural arbitrary applications. Anxiety of the user is detected and configuration options of the applications are disabled. Roskind simply monitors environment (not user input) and adapts a computing device accordingly. Roskind neither mentions nor suggests detecting anxiety and automatically disabling configuration options accordingly.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims

The dependent claims are allowable based on their dependence from allowable claims, discussed above.

CONCLUSION

The present application is in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is requested.

Should any fees be required in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
Microsoft Corporation

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